Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

PAGE 01 TANANA 01210 240926Z

12
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 PER-01 SSO-00 /016 W
---------- 005713
O 240920Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8325
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 1210

TO AF/EX AND A/OC/AF

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP
SUBJ: TDY COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANCE

WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH NAIROBI BY RADIO JULY 24. NAIROBI HAS AGREED SUPPLY CRO ASAP. I AM THEREFORE RELEASING WILKINSON AS OF JULY 25 WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FROM ALL OF US FOR PROMPT REACTION.SHEINBAUM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TANANA 01210 02 OF 02 261253Z

43
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /062 W
---------- 017350
R 261045Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8327
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TANANARIVE 1210
7. RATSIRAKA IS TRYING TO BUILD A POLITICAL BASE TO PROLONG HIS HOLD ON POWER, BUT HE DOES NOT PROVIDE THE LONG-TERM MEASURES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE AVERAGE MALAGASY. INSTEAD, HE SENDS HIS MINISTERS OUT AS FIREMEN TO (A) END LABOR DISPUTES, (B) MAKE A SEMBLANCE OF BRINGING ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, AND (C) GIVE THE POPULACE THE APPEARANCE THAT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

THEY ARE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE COUNTRY'S LEADERSHIP.
IN FACT, THESE MINISTERS HAVE, AS A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALLY,
LITTLE INFLUENCE IN UPPER CIRCLES FOR WHAT PASSES AS
DOMESTIC POLICY.

8. LITTLE RED BOOK STRESSES BOTH (A) "DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM"
IN ORDER TO CEMENT THE NEW IDEOLOGICAL BASE OF THE COUNTRY
AND (B) "DECENTRALIZATION." THIS SEEMING CONFLICT OF
THOUGHT IS MISLEADING: IN EFFECT, ALL POWER WILL BE
CENTRALIZED, NOTWITHSTANDING THE RHETORIC ABOUT THE
"DECISION-MAKING POWER" OF THE FOKONOLONA (VILLAGE
COUNCILS); NONCONFORMITY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. AREMA,
RATSIRAKA'S NEW POLITICAL INSTITUTION (THE TERM "PARTY" IS
AVOIDED), WILL PRESUMABLY COMBINE A PERSONALITY CULT WITH AN
APPARATUS TO CONTROL ALL ASPECTS OF THE COUNTRY'S LIFE.
RATSIRAKA ENJOYS BEING AT THE CENTER OF THINGS, AND HE
CERTAINLY ENVISIONS 35,000 MALAGASY PERFORMING THE SAME
CARD STUNTS OF RATSIRAKA'S PICTURE THAT 35,000 NORTH
KOREANS DID DURING HIS JUNE TRIP TO PYONGYANG.

9. RATSIRAKA'S FRUSTRATIONS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE MANY.
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

IN TRYING TO KEEP HIS "TOUS AZIMUTS" POLICY IN BALANCE
WHILE PERMITTING GRATER INFLUENCE FROM THE COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES, HE DOES NOT HAVE THE MOST IMPRESSIVE REPRESENTA-
TION FROM THE WEST. THE UK CLOSED ITS EMBASSY IN MARCH
AND THE US HAS BEEN WITHOUT AN AMBASSADOR FOR 14 MONTHS.
IN APRIL THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR DEPARTED FOR AN INDEFINITE
PERIOD (BECAUSE RATSIRAKA HAD CUT OFF HIS DIRECT CONTACTS
WITH CABINET MEMBERS) AND RETURNED IN JUNE ONLY AFTER
RATSIRAKA SMOKED A PEACE PIPE WITH GISCARD. BUT RATSIRAKA
IS ALSO MIFFED THAT NO BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRY HAS A RESIDENT
MISSION IN TANANARIVE, NOR DOES ALGERIA, TO WHICH RATSIRAKA
FREQUENTLY LOOKS FOR SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE AND COUNSEL. MORE-
OVER, HE CANNOT COME AND GO ABROAD AS HE DID AS FOREIGN
MINISTER, EVEN TO VISIT HIS AFRICAN BRETHREN OR
"PROGRESSIST" CONFRERES.

10. HIS "POLICIES" ARE CONFINED PRIMARILY TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
HE SUPPORTS ALL LIBERATIONS MOVEMENTS, E.G., POLISARIO.
HIS ORDERS TO HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANI-
ZATIONS (IF THAT CAN BE CONSIDERED "POLICY") ARE TO VOTE
DOWN-THE-LINE WITH THE MOST RADICAL STATES, NO MATTER
WHAT THE SUBJECT. LOOKING FOR A DOMAIN IN WHICH HE COULD
BE VIEWED AS BEING SUPREME, HE HAS CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF
THE "INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE," EVEN THOUGH THERE IS NO
INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL THREAT TO MADAGASCAR.

11. HE HAS BEEN EMBARRASSED OVER THE PAST YEAR BY THE
ACTIVITIES OF HIS ELDER BROTHER, ETIENNE, WHO HAS BOUGHT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

INTO SEVERAL LUCRATIVE ENTERPRISES AND HAS OBTAINED A MAJOR SLICE OF THE COFFEE TRADE (PROBABLY, AT THE SAME TIME, MAKING ILLEGAL PROFITS FROM THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE CURRENT HIGH WORLD PRICES FOR COFFEE AND THE RELATIVELY LOW PRICES PAID TO THE PRODUCERS). AT HIS MARCH 19 PRESS CONFERENCE, RATSIRAKA WAS AGGRESSIVE IN TRYING TO DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST VARIOUS ACCUSATIONS (E.G., PARIS BANK ACCOUNTS IN HIS NAME); BUT HE OPENED MORE QUESTIONS THAN THOSE HE ANSWERED. HIS PICTURE APPEARS EVERYWHERE, AND THE ROUTE TO THE AIRPORT WAS LINED BY THOUSANDS WHEN HE RETURNED FROM HIS JUNE 1976 TRIP TO FRANCE AND THE FAR EAST. BUT HE IS NOT LOVED, AND PROBABLY NOT EVEN RESPECTED VERY MUCH BY THE RANK-AND-FILE THAT ONLY RARELY GESTS TO
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

SEE OR HEAR OF THEIR PRESIDENT'S DOINGS.

12. HOW LONG WILL HE LAST? THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY ORGANIZED OPPOSITION MOVEMENT OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE, DESPITE ANDRE RESAMPA'S DULL EFFORTS TO RESTORE LIFE INTO WHAT USED TO BE TSIRANANA'S OLD SOCIALIST PART OF MADAGASCAR. THE MILITARY RETAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER, AS THEY PROVIDE THE ONLY REAL SUPPORT FOR RATSIRAKA, RELUCTANT THOUGH IT MAY BE OVERALL. THEY WOULD ABHOR, EVEN MORE THAN A RADICAL SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT, THE THOUGHT OF NEW VIOLENCE AND UNCERTAINTY WHICH IS NOT IN THE MAKEUP OF THE AVERAGE MALAGASY. THE TRUE ANSWER IS THAT THERE IS A VACUUM: THERE IS NO OTHER POTENTIAL LEADER (MILITARY OR CIVILIAN) ON THE SCENE WHO HAS THE WHEREWITHAL OR THE COURAGE TO ATTEMPT TO UNSEAT RATSIRAKA. HE MAY BE GONE BY DAWN TOMORROW, BUT THAT IS VERY UNLIKELY. HE IS GOOD FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR IN POWER, PROBABLY MORE THAN THAT, AND DURING THAT TIME IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE AN IMPROVEMENT IN US-MALAGASY RELATIONS, EVEN THOUGH RATSIRAKA MIGHT WANT IT FOR COSMETIC PURPOSES.

SHEINBAUM

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TANANA01210
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760286-0834
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197607109/baaaereo.tel
Line Count: 151
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING - WHO AND WHAT IS DIDIER RATSIRAKA
TAGS: PINR, MA, (RATSIRAKA, DIDIER)
To: STATE NIACT INFO NAIROBI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006